

The Pennsylvania Dutchman
in Philadelphia

By SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER

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Mr. Brown Aubrey Tennyson
from his father
James D. 1897

THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCHMAN
IN PHILADELPHIA

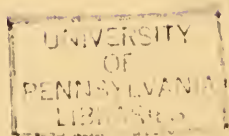
BY SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER



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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY
IN 1896 WAS HELD IN PHILADEL-
PHIA IN THE HALL OF THE HIS-
TORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLV-
VANIA. DR. CHARLES J. STILLÉ
MADE AN ADDRESS OF WELCOME,
TO WHICH JUDGE PENNYPACKER
RESPONDED.

P., S. Whitaker

1973 9 Univ. Pennsylvania

Address.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

As a citizen of Philadelphia, the historic city of **The** America, and as a member of the Pennsylvania-**Pennsylvania** German Society, it gives me great pleasure to **Dutchman** respond to the generous greetings of Dr. Stillé. **in** **Philadelphia** It has not been on every occasion that the Pennsylvania Dutchman has been regarded as a person worthy of praise and honor. A few years ago, one of our most celebrated divines, in publishing a history of the Protestant Episcopal Church, referred to him as an ignorant heathen. In the most recent history of Pennsylvania the learned author, who has given us an interesting, entertaining and in many respects a valuable book, after devoting one-half of his work to the literary, scientific and military achievements of the Pennsylvania Dutchman, stops to inquire whether, on the whole, his influence has been injurious or beneficial. When a man, with the facts thus before

him, remains in that wavering and uncertain frame of mind, there is nothing you can do for him but to offer your earnest prayers for his welfare, in the hope that the lapse of time and the processes of growth and development may produce their natural and helpful results. (Applause.) As for me, it is my opinion that if the influence of the Pennsylvania Dutchman could have been eliminated, Philadelphia would have been nothing more than an ordinary American town like Boston, New York, Baltimore or Chicago. (Applause.) The Constitution of the United States was framed in the city of Philadelphia, and its adoption was due to the earnest support of the State of Pennsylvania. The earliest organized effort in this State in behalf of the adoption of that Constitution was a petition presented to the Pennsylvania Assembly from the residents of Germantown. (Applause.) Philadelphia was the home of the Government of the United States for ten years of its existence, and the first President of the Congress under the Constitution was Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg. In all of the American wars the finances of the government have been managed in the city of Philadelphia, and the first continental treasurer was Michael Hillegas. Philadelphia has a great Uni-

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versity, which has within the past few years surpassed Yale, and is now treading closely upon the heels of Harvard. It was led to its remarkable success by Dr. Charles J. Stillé, a descendant of Tobias Wagner, by Dr. Wm. Pepper, whose German ancestors came from the upper Rhine, and by Charles C. Harrison, a descendant of Michael Leib. Philadelphia has immense ship-yards, which supply the navy of the United States with its vessels. They were established and are still conducted by those energetic Pennsylvania Dutchmen, the Cramps. New York is a city of merchants. It is a place where men buy from the producer and sell to the consumer, at a profit, upon which they live for a time sumptuously. But when at length its stores, with the widest reputation and the most extended business relations, break down under the weight of financial burdens they are bought in gross by that most enterprising of the merchants of the world, and conspicuous Pennsylvania Dutchman, John Wanamaker.

It is not only in material prosperity and in matters of state and of government that the Pennsylvania Dutchman has been of importance. Philadelphia is noted for her charities. She estab-

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lished the first hospital in America, and the earliest gift of real estate to that hospital was the outcome of the generosity of Matthias Koplín, of Perkiomen.

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Philadelphia is noted for the exclusiveness of her society; but it must be remembered that the best known of her social events, dating back to the colonial era, was the Wistar Party, originating with Dr. Caspar Wistar, whose ancestors came from Hillspach near Heidelberg. The name of Rittenhouse vies with that of Biddle and Cadwalader.

Homer detailed in verse the events of the siege of Troy, Virgil wrote of the wanderings of Æneas and the foundation of Rome, and following these worthy examples, Philadelphia has too her epic upon the days of the settlement. It tells in mellifluous and entertaining measure of the lives and the doings of Francis Daniel Pastorius, Abraham op den Graeff, Dirck op den Graeff, and Gerhard Hendricks, ancient burghers of the town of Germantown.

Is it too much to hope that upon this interesting occasion, when the city of Philadelphia, through its most important literary institution, which grew to success under the care of the Moravian John

Jordan, Jr., gives due recognition and kindly greeting to the Pennsylvania Dutch, these sturdy pioneers look from the regions above with smile and approval? May we not repeat the appreciative words of the New England poet :

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“ The sorrowing exiles from their Fatherland,
Leaving their homes in Kriegsheim's bowers of vine
And the blue beauty of the glorious Rhine,
To seek, amidst our solemn depths of wood,
Freedom from man, and holy peace with God ;
Who first of all their testimonial gave
Against the oppressor—for the outcast slave—
Is it a dream that such as these look down
And with their blessing our rejoicings crown ? ”

(Prolonged applause.)

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